

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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EPA acts quickly to clean up old Clyde factory

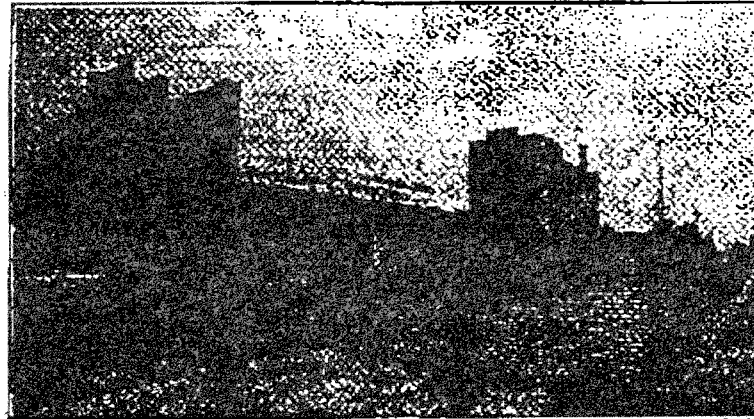
By JAN REINHART
Staff writer

Federal agents are preparing to remove barrels of hazardous chemicals from an abandoned factory on Clyde's northeast side.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency agents from the Superfund program arrived at the old Formulated Products factory at 110 East St. Tuesday, after gaining permission from owner John Foissy of Bellevue.

On Friday, a team of eight agents began surveying the 450-odd barrels of chemicals abandoned at the dilapidated factory. Those barrels found to be leaking will be repackaged, said Steve Renninger, onsite coordinator of the Superfund team.

"The ultimate goal is to arrange for offsite disposal in the next four to six weeks," Renninger said.



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

SITE SECURED: A plastic snow fence has been put around the old Formulated Products factory in Clyde to let trespassers know to keep out.

About 300 of the barrels at the old Formulated Products building appear to be filled.

The contents include various flammable liquids, acids, caus-

tics, solvents and oxidizers, all of which can burn the skin, Renninger said.

USEPA officials have secured the site with plastic snow fence.

ing. Onsite staff will be at the factory around the clock to notify Clyde Police of trespassers.

A contingency plan for spills and injuries at the site has been compiled. But neither USEPA or local officials expect it will be needed.

"It's not like there's an imminent danger that this place will blow up or anything," Clyde city manager Dennis Albrinck said.

Local officials said they were surprised at how quickly the USEPA moved. Superfund projects usually drag on for months and years.

Yet agents from the USEPA visited the site on March 31 and decided almost immediately to begin cleanup, Renninger reported.

"It happened really suddenly," Albrinck said. "Boom. And they were here."

The factory, located on a five-

acre plot of land, has been used to manufacture everything from dog food to paint, officials report. Foissy could not be reached Friday.

In recent years, the factory has become a dilapidated eyesore and a hangout for teens. Albrinck said the building has gone up for auction at sheriff's sale, but so far there have been no takers.

The Sandusky County Board of Health visited the site earlier this year.

"We investigated the site in an attempt to get the site secured from trespassers," health board chief Ken Kerik said.

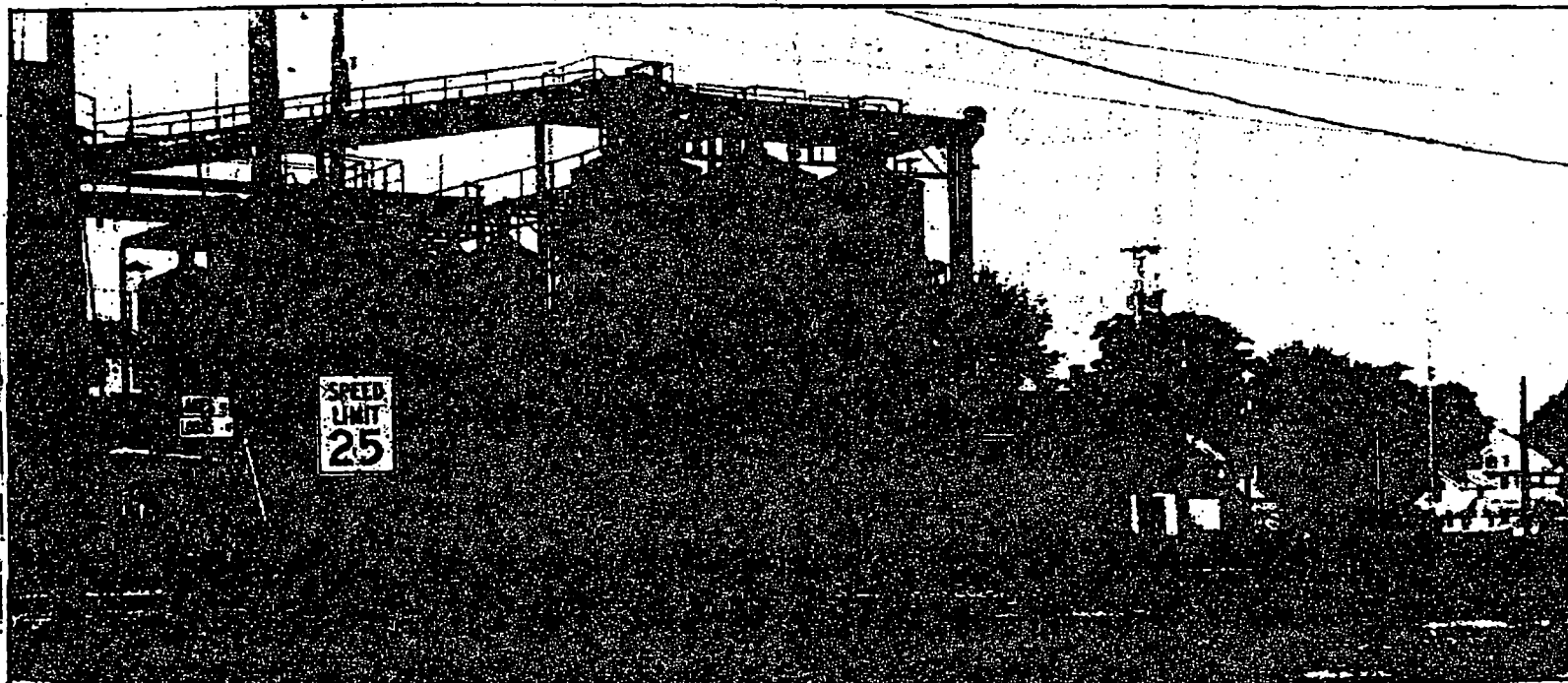
"As we were going through the building, we discovered the chemicals and notified USEPA."

Once removal of the barrels is complete, Clyde hopes to win a federal community development grant to tear the building down.

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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Cleanup begins

Environmental Protection Agency crews began setting up the command post from which the EPA will supervise removal of approximately 450 barrels of chemicals from the former Formulated Products plant on East Street. This view from Loomis and Ames streets shows

part of the five-acre site to be cleaned up. Persons are warned to stay away from the site as trespassers will be prosecuted. (Enterprise Photo by J. W. Brewer)

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